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Gazette, a notice of the occurrence of *Orobanche minor* in New Jersey. Dr. A. P. Garber writes in the October number of South Floridan ferns, while Mr. J. G. Lemmon writes in rather a gushing way of the big trees of California.

ZOÖLOGY.[1]

BREEDING HABITS OF CORIXA.—In Bulletin No. 1 of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History, I called attention, three years ago, in a paper on the Crustacea of Illinois, to a breeding habit of Corixa, which seems to have escaped the notice of the entomologists; and as my note has also been generally overlooked by those most interested, I repeat the observation here, especially as it affords a very curious illustration of natural selection, unless I wholly misunderstand the matter.

In temporary ponds of this region, which fill up every spring and dry out in midsummer, *Corixa alternata* Say, is an abundant insect, and *Cambarus immunis* Hagen, is the commonest craw-fish. In seining some of these ponds, three years ago, in June and July, I noticed that the backs of many of the crawfishes were covered with a moss-like incrustation, which, upon examination proved to be the eggs of insects, stuck fast by one end as close together as they could be placed. Sometimes only a few would be found on a crawfish, and sometimes the upper surface would be nearly covered. They were just hatching when first observed, and it took but a little time to determine that they were unmistakable Corixas. Careful search of the water weeds and other submerged objects failed to discover other eggs, and I was led to conclude that the Corixa purposely selected this remarkable place for oviposition. Since then I have found these eggs also on the shells of pond molluscs, and on the carapace of *Cambarus acutus* Gir., another wide-spread and common crawfish.

I can account for so strange a habit only by supposing that it is a "provision of nature" to guard against the waste of eggs otherwise resulting from the drying up of the ponds. The crawfishes mentioned are distinctively aquatic species, and as one pond dries up they migrate to another, or to a neighboring stream, bearing on their hospitable backs, as the shepherd bore Œdipus from impending destruction, the hopes of the distressed water bugs. If this is a fixed habit of a species or variety, and not a local accident, it ought to be heard of elsewhere.—*S. A. Forbes.*

SNAKES AND COLD VICTUALS.—It is a popular notion that serpents never eat what has been killed by any agency except their own; and, though naturalists know this belief to be false, very few of the one hundred and thirty-two species of North American serpents have been proved by actual observation to have eaten any animal which they have not captured alive.

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[1] The departments of Ornithology and Mammalogy are conducted by Dr. ELLIOTT COUES, U. S. A.

As the common black snake, *B. constrictor*, is not, to my knowledge, among the number already accredited with a propensity for cold victuals, an account of a black snake's dinner which recently came under my observation may be of some interest to those herpetologically inclined:

During the latter part of last June I killed a garter snake, *Eutænia sirtalis*, and the next day, happening past the place where I killed it, I came upon a black snake with about an inch of the tail of a garter snake protruding from its mouth. As I could see nothing of the dead snake left there the day previous, I immediately suspected the one inside his constrictorship to be the same. On removing the garter snake this proved to be the case, as was evidenced by the wounds I had made on the snake's head and body. The length of the black snake was a little short of three and a half feet, and that of his dinner, twenty-two inches.—*F. W. Cragin.*

A Skunk eaten by Turkey-buzzards.—Some years ago, while residing in Chester county, Penna., having set a steel-trap for a ground-hog (Maryland marmot), I found a large skunk caught by a leg. Though a very unwelcome prize, there seemed no alternative but to kill it, which was done. This was about 8 o'clock in the morning; immediately a number of turkey-buzzards commenced their usual gyrations over the dead body, and by 10 o'clock nothing remained of the unsavory animal but its well picked skeleton.—*William Kite.*

ANTHROPOLOGY.[1]

A Vessel of Glazed Pottery taken from a Tumulus in Florida.—The peculiar egg-shaped vessel surmounted with bulbous-shaped mouth, a description of which is here given, was found, associated with some much-decayed human bones, and a single arrow head chipped from reddish flint, in a burial mound near the south shore of Santa Fe Lake, Florida. The color of this unique piece of pottery is a dull shade of buff or drab. It is formed of yellowish clay, like that found in the neighborhood, perhaps mingled with marl; but without any admixture of crushed stone or shells being used in its construction. Its height is eleven inches, and its greatest exterior diameter 8.40 inches. It weighs six pounds, and holds over one gallon of liquid, or exactly four and one-third quarts, being perfectly water tight. Its base is too rounded to permit of its standing without support. The peculiarity of its construction is that it is built spirally from the bottom upward with one continuous cylinder or rope of clay, giving the vessel a ribbed or corrugated surface; there being twenty-four rounds or circuits of the cylinder. The entire inside is glazed with a decided but somewhat thin glazing of a pale yellowish tint. The bulbous-shaped mouth is

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[1] Edited by Prof. Otis T. Mason, Columbian College, Washington, D. C.